Fish deaths in Periyar River

3394. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fish deaths in Periyar river have been reported on account of water pollution;

(b) if so, the action taken against the firms polluting the water; and

(c) the action proposed to clean the river from pollution and save marine fishery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AN FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir. Fish kill was observed in the Edamula Branch of the Periyar river and the stretch from Mulavukadu to Eloor on 11th June, 1998. Evidences gathered indicate that the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (Petrochemical Division) (FACT-PD) had caused the incident by letting out untreated effluent into the river through storm water drains.

(b) The FACT-PD was served show cause notices on 15-6-98 and 22-6-98 by the Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB). As the explanations to the Show-Cause Notices submitted by the industry were not satisfactory, KSPCB has decided to prosecute the industry, its occupier and its authorised agent.

(c) KSPCB has given instructions to all the industries in the locality to comply with the consent conditions on effluent quality, quantity and discharge points. These are inspected by the KSPCB staff regularly. KSPCB has also decided to install continous water quality monitoring and warning system on the river.

National Forestry Policy

3395. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any National Forest Policy in operation as on date;

(b) if so, the details thereof and since when the policy is in operation;

(c) the extent of implementation of the aforesaid policy since the date of its formulation to date; and

(d) if the reply to part (a) be in the negative, when a National Forest Policy is likely to be introduced and whether the interests of Scheduled Tribes and tribal areas and the requirements of rural development would be taken into consideration before formulating the new National Forest Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Forest Policy, 1988 is under implementation since 7th December, 1988. The principal aim of the National Forest Policy is to ensure environmental stability and maintenance of ecological balance by conserving the natural heritage of the country with the active involvement of the people including women.

(c) It is being implemented throughout the country by State Governments.

(d) Does not arise.

सांघी समूह से सीमेन्ट संयंत्र को स्वीकृति प्रदान करने में हो रहा विलम्ब

3396. **श्री गोपाल सिंह जी० सोलंकी:** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय द्वारा गुजरात के कच्छ जिले में सांघी औद्योगिक समूह द्वारा सीमेन्ट संयंत्र स्थापित करने के लिए पर्यावरणीय अध्यादेश के अंतर्गत तटीय विनियमन जोन (सी०आर०जेड०) अनुमति प्रदान न किए जाने के कारण इस समूह को भारी वित्तीय नुकसान उठाना पड़ रहा है;

(ख) क्या सरकार ने उक्त संयंत्र के कार्यान्वयन में हो रहे विलम्ब के कारणों को सुनिश्चित किया है, यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;